bōnafide systems

presents

VT PLAYER

MIDI SOFTWARE
FOR THE COLECO ADAM™

LIMITED WARRANTY

BONAFIDE SYSTEMS warrants the MIDI-MITE interface and digital data packs to be free of any defects in materials and workmanship for ninety (90) days from the date of purchase. This warranty is limited to the original purchaser of the product. This warranty is invalid if the damage or defect is caused by accident or misuse of any kind.

If within ninety (90) days from the date of purchase the interface or digital data packs are found defective, BONAFIDE SYSTEMS will repair or replace them. The purchaser is responsible for returning the product and must provide a dated proof of purchase.

If after ninety (90) days the original digital data pack becomes defective, the purchaser can get a replacement copy from BONAFIDE SYSTEMS for $5.00 plus $2.50 shipping and handling. You must return the original data pack (or the remnants of it) to BONAFIDE SYSTEMS.

In no event shall BONAFIDE SYSTEMS be liable to the purchaser or any third party for incidental or consequential damages, including, but not limited to, loss of or damage to data, other programs, or storage media, loss of use, loss of business, or damage to your computer or musical instruments.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you experience any difficulty in using this program, or if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call us between 6pm and 10pm PST, at (209) 658-8530 or contact Chris Braymen via Compuserve, 70057,2035. Our address is Bonafide Systems 45280 S. Oakview Dr. Oakhurst, CA 93644. Please note that we will not be able to offer you this support unless you complete and mail the enclosed registration card.

PRODUCT REGISTRATION

To register this product please fill out and return the enclosed registration card. We must have your registration on file before we can offer any technical support. Registration will also help us keep you informed of any updates to the software and other information.

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Bonafide Systems
V.T. Player
Serial #VTP1064

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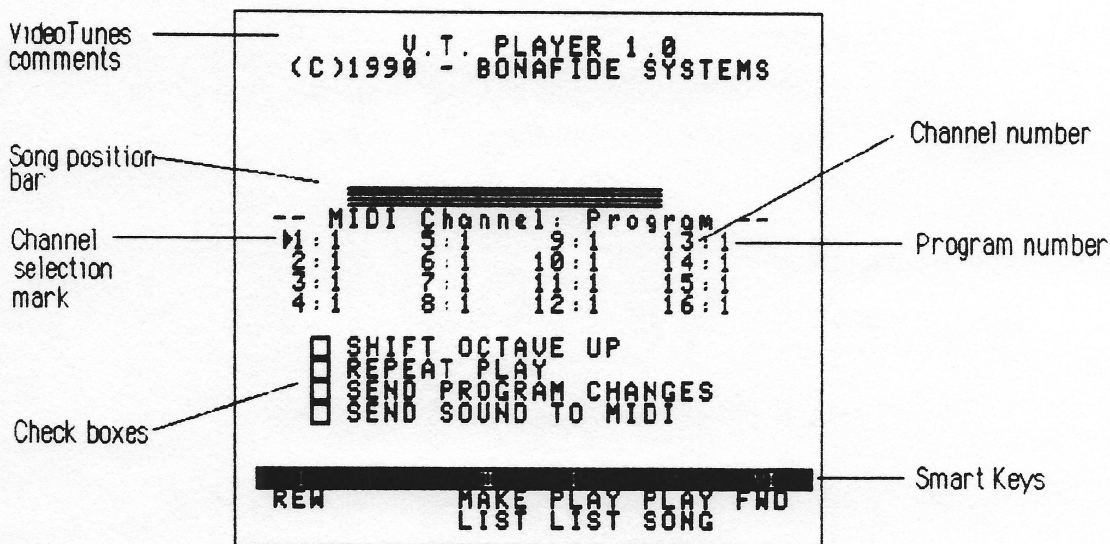
VT PLAYER INSTRUCTION MANUAL

VT PLAYER is a program that will allow you to play songs created with FutureVision's VideoTunes through your synthesizer. It will let you select channels to play music through and it will allow you to select a different synthesizer sound for each channel.

HOW TO LOAD VT PLAYER

We strongly advise you to make a backup of VT PLAYER before you run it. Always use the backup and keep the original in a safe place. When you have done this, place your VT PLAYER tape or disk in any drive and pull reset.

While VT PLAYER is loading you will see the boot screen displaying the name of the program. This will be followed by the VT PLAYER operations screen. It should look like this:

Just below the text area you will see something that resembles a musical staff. The one note sitting at the far left on the staff shows that you are currently positioned at the beginning of a song. In the middle of the screen you will see the channel/program selection area. Then, below that, are four options with check boxes next to them. At the very bottom of your screen are six Smart Keys.

PLAYING VIDEOTUNES SONGS ON YOUR ADAM SOUND CHIP

There are several songs stored on your VT PLAYER tape. To play one of them, press the Store/Get button on your computer keyboard. The Smart Keys will change to display your currently loaded drives. If you get a message that says "No Drive Is Loaded", press Escape, check to make sure a drive is loaded, then try again.

Select the drive your songs are stored on. When you see the list of songs, select one by using the arrow keys to hilite the name. For now choose one that you know has a maximum of three notes at a time such as "Canon Trio". Next, press Smart Key VI "GET." The song will be loaded and you will be returned to the operations screen.

Notice that the song's comments now appear at the top of your screen. Now, press Smart Key V "PLAY SONG." You should hear the song coming through your ADAM speaker. Notice also that the note on the staff is moving toward the right as you progress through the song. Your Smart Key options at this time read "PAUSE"(V) and "STOP"(VI). Pressing PAUSE(V) will pause the music until you press Smart Key V "RESUME." Pressing STOP(VI) will abort the playback.

PLAYING SONGS ON YOUR MIDI INSTURMENT
To hear this song played on your MIDI instrument, move the hilite bar to the line that reads "SEND SONG TO MIDI". Press Return. There should now be an "X" in the corresponding check box. If you get an error reading "MIDI INTERFACE NOT DETECTED" either you don't have a MIDI interface or your interface has not been installed correctly.

Before you press PLAY SONG(V), be sure to rewind the song by pressing the Shift key and Smart Key I, "REW". Notice that the little note has now moved back to the beginning of the staff. Now press PLAY SONG(V). If everything has been set up correctly, you should hear music coming from your MIDI synthesizer. If you don't hear any music, read on, your synthesizer might not respond to channel 1.

CHANGING THE MIDI CHANNEL
Most synthesizers have the capability of responding to more than one MIDI channel. Notice that the red triangular mark is showing that you currently have channel 1 selected for playback. You can toggle a channel on or off by moving the hilite bar to the channel number and pressing Return. The music will be played through all selected channels. Your synthesizer manual will tell you what channels your synthesizer responds to.

PROGRAM CHANGES
Most synthesizers are capable of producing a variety of sounds. These sounds can be selected by sending MIDI program changes. You can tell VT PLAYER to send program changes by putting an "X" in the box next to "SEND PROGRAMS CHANGES". When SEND PROGRAM CHANGES is active, VT PLAYER will send the displayed programs on their corresponding channels before the song is played.

To change one of the program numbers, hilite the number, then press Return. Enter a new number from 1 to 128 then press Return again. You can press Escape at any time to avoid making a change. Your synthesizer manual will explain what numbers correspond to what sounds. Some synthesizer manufacturers number their sounds from 0 to 127. If such is the case with your synthesizer, adding a 1 to your synthesizer sound number will give you the corresponding VT PLAYER sounds. Program change numbers will have no effect if SEND PROGRAM CHANGES is off.

PLAYING SONGS WITH MULTIPLE SOUNDS

Playing songs with multiple sounds is easy. Simply select two or more channels for playback, then select a different program number for each channel. Make sure SEND PROGRAM CHANGES is on. You can play the song on as many channels as your synthesizer will respond to. If you still only hear one sound, you might have a synthesizer that has selectable OMNI MODE or that requires you to allocate voices for channels. Consult your synthesizer manual to find out how to turn OMNI MODE off .

SHIFTING THE OCTAVE

VideoTunes has a feature that allows you to shift the octave of your song up or down to best suit the ADAM sound chip. After loading a song into VT PLAYER the check box next to "SHIFT OCTAVE UP" will be checked or unchecked depending on the octave setting. You can toggle this setting by hiliting the check box and pressing Return.

REPEAT PLAY

Normally, when you press PLAY SONG(V), VT PLAYER plays your song from the current position until the end and then stops. If you put an "X" in the box next to "REPEAT PLAY", VT PLAYER will automatically repeat the song until you press STOP(VI). If the REPEAT PLAY box is checked and you are playing a list of songs, the entire list will be repeated.

PLAYING LISTS OF SONGS

VT PLAYER allows you to select and play back a list of songs. All the songs must reside on the same disk or tape. To select a list press Smart Key III, "MAKE LIST", then choose the drive your songs are stored on. You will see a list of all the files on your tape or disk. Hilite the file you wish to place first in your list and press Smart Key V "MARK" . A red mark will appear next to the file indicating the file has been selected for list play. If you decide you don't want the file in your list, press MARK(V) again and the mark will disappear. Continue selecting files in the order you wish them played back until you are done, then press Smart Key VI "DONE".

To play the list you have selected press Smart Key IV "PLAY LIST". The files will be loaded and played in the order you specified. While playing a list, pressing Smart Key IV "NEXT" will quit the current song and move on to the next one in the list. Pressing PAUSE(V) pauses the music until you press RESUME(V), and STOP(VI) aborts the list play altogether. Your list will stay in memory until the next time you view the files list.

REWIND and FAST FORWARD

Smart Key I "REW" and Smart Key VI "FWD" allow you change your current position in the song. REW(I) moves you a little toward the beginning of the song while FWD(VI) moves you a little toward the end of the song. Pressing <Shift> REW(I) moves you all the way to the beginning of the song and <Shift> FWD(VI) moves you all the way to the end.

DELETING A FILE

To delete a file, press the Store/Get Key and select the drive that contains your files. Hilite the file you wish to delete and press the Delete key. VT PLAYER will ask if you really want to delete the file. Press Smart Key V "YES", unless you've changed your mind, in which case you may either press Smart Key VI "NO" or Escape.

PLAYING MORE THAN 3 NOTES AT A TIME

The ADAM sound chip is only capable of reproducing 3 musical notes at a time. The designers of VideoTunes, however, did not limit the number of notes you could enter in any one place within the song! This means that while VideoTunes will not play the extra notes itself, the notes will nevertheless be saved in the song file. Most synthesizers are capable of playing more than 3 notes at a time. Consequently, we can write songs in VideoTunes that have more than 3 notes at a time and play them in their full polyphony through VT PLAYER.

HOW TO ADD TO YOUR COLLECTION OF SONGS

Besides writing your own songs using the VideoTunes program, you can also download songs written by other people from bulletin boards and national information networks such as CompuServe. We also know of at least two public domain collections of VideoTunes songs that are available from various retailers.

ERROR MESSAGES

Most of VT PLAYER'S error messages appear just above the Smart Keys and are accompanied by a "warning buzz." They remain on the screen until the user dismisses them by pressing a key. The following is a comprehensive list of possible error messages and their causes:

Can not access directory	The tape or disk you are trying to access does not have a valid EOS directory on it. It is probably a CP/M disk or something.
Error: data out of bounds!	The numerical data you entered is not within the range VT PLAYER expects. Program changes can only be from 1 to 128!
Error deleting file	You are probably trying to delete a locked file. You will need to unlock the file from SmartBASIC before you can delete it.
Error opening file	The file you are trying to open does not exist on the tape or disk. This may happen if you change media while selecting a file to load.
Error reading file	The file you are trying to load is corrupt. The information in the header about the file may be incorrect, the file's data may have been truncated, or there is a bad block in the file.
MIDI interface not detected!	You are trying to select the "SEND SONG TO MIDI" option but VT PLAYER can't sense the MIDI interface. Make sure the interface is properly connected, then try rebooting the program.
Not a VIDEOTUNES file!	You are trying to load a file that was not created by VideoTunes.